



# The Advocate

Summer 2021  
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Cazenovia Heritage  
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## Summer Updates

At three months young, we're delighted with the response from the community to our programs, with the growing number of members, and with the ideas and preservation concerns that many of you are bringing forth. Some notes on each:

Our programs are offered in four tracks: Historical Architecture; Technical Workshops; the Places, Spaces, & Things of Cazenovia; and the People of Cazenovia. These reflect the broad range of interests that you bring to preservation. A rolling 12-month schedule can be found on our website. Coming up on July 24<sup>th</sup> is a workshop on window restoration and in August, a commemoration of the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law Cazenovia Convention (see inside).

June and July have seen our first membership campaign with a strong showing in both Regular and Charter Memberships – Thank you! If you've been meaning to join but haven't gotten around to it, a form is included in this newsletter. Charter Members, who are providing extra support in this first year of operation, are recognized inside this issue.

Your ideas and preservation concerns: The list keeps growing! As a new organization with limited resources, we want to work on what's important to you and Cazenovia. We will be reaching out to you to help us prioritize and focus our resources for the next year(s). More to come on this later this summer. In the meantime, keep sending us your thoughts.



Ann Ladd is shown here with Caz Heritage walking tour leader Ted Bartlett. Ann's mother, Peggy Ladd, conducted many public walking tours of Cazenovia in the 1980s.

## Highlighted Resource: *Anyone You Know Born Here?*

### #18 - #20 Mill Street

You probably drive by this house every week and never realized that between 1924 and 1944 over an estimated 200 babies were born at what was then “Mrs. Wight’s Cottage Hospital.”



Luella Wight was a non-registered nurse who lived with her husband Bert at #5 Mill Street in 1920, where she opened a “hospital” while Bert was a salesman for an oil company. In 1924, she purchased #18 - #20 Mill Street from Arthur De Clercq and moved her hospital services there. After 1930 and by 1940, she and Bert moved into the home. The *Cazenovia Republican* reported a birth at the Cottage Hospital almost every week from 1925 to 1944, drawing patients from Cazenovia, Morrisville, Skaneateles, Georgetown, Fenner, and all points in between. While predominantly a maternity hospital, other care was provided, and in later years it was

referred to as a nursing home. Bert died in 1944 and she sold the business shortly thereafter. Luella, herself, lived until 1959. She is buried at Georgetown Cemetery.

The house was reportedly built by Reuben Parsons who was born 1816 in Massachusetts and moved to Cazenovia with his parents in the 1830s. Reuben became the miller operating alongside the creek and lived at 17 Mill Street. In 1850, his neighbors on Mill Street (Orrin Blair, George Hackney, Stephen Clarke, and the Chaphe family) all worked at the mill, as would eventually Reuben’s two sons. The house at 18 - 20 Mill Street was built across from his, likely to house the mill workers and/or possibly, his sons. After Reuben’s death in 1891, both of his sons moved to Oswego County and the property ultimately passed to De Clercq. Reuben Parson is buried at Evergreen Cemetery.

*Thanks to Bob Constable for bringing this question to us!*

### **Coming Soon on August 21st! A Remembrance of the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law Cazenovia Convention**

Mark your calendar for August 21<sup>st</sup> for a commemoration of this historical event that took place right here in Cazenovia and would go on to attain national significance. Hugh Humphreys, former Judge and master storyteller returns to describe the days before, during, and after the convention presided over by Frederick Douglass in the company of 30 fugitive slaves. This free program will be held at the Cummings Theater at 2:00 PM, followed by guided tours of the various sites involved, conducted by members and supporters of Cazenovia Heritage.

## From Our Recent Programs

### **Recognizing Our Charter Members**

In this first year of operation, Charter Members are allowing us to jump-start our ability to implement our mission. **Hats Off** and **Many Thanks** to the following Charter Memberships processed through June 30th!

Marilyn & Dick Alberding  
Tom Anderson & Marc Schappell  
Barbara & Ted Bartlett  
Amy & Andy Breuer  
Patti & Sparky Christakos  
Kevin Clark  
Barbara & Tom Clarke  
Jenny & Brian Coughlin  
Anne Ferguson  
Jon Holstein  
Katherine & Richard Huftalen  
Linda Hryb & Dick Kavey  
Kelli & Andy Johnson  
Christine & Eugene Lozner  
Michael MacHugh  
Gayonne & Wally McDonald  
Ann & Howard Port  
Anne Redfern & Graham Egerton  
Maudie & Graham Ritchie  
Anne & Roger Saltman  
Sharye Skinner  
Jeanne Whitney Smith & Scott Ferguson  
Donna Staller  
Susan & Carl Stearns  
Gyata & Chuck Storman  
Tom Tait  
Michael Tomlan  
Dorothy Willsey  
Joan Young & Scott Johnson

Those signing up July – Sept will be listed in the Autumn newsletter. Charter Memberships will continue to be accepted through May 2022.



Top: Ted Bartlett pointing out architectural changes on Albany St. on one of two walking tours in May  
Bottom: Carl Stearns identifying the aesthetic effects of moldings

## Join Us! Become a Member of Cazenovia Heritage!

Cazenovia Heritage is 100% dedicated to the preservation, protection, restoration, and adaptive re-use of our historic architecture, neighborhoods, sites, and objects.

**Become a *Charter Member*:** In this first year of Cazenovia Heritage, you can be recognized as one of its earliest and strongest supporters! Charter memberships are available at **\$250** and will enable us to quickly grow our funds to support future preservation projects. As a Charter Member, you will:

- have your name inscribed in our permanent records;
- be recognized in our newsletter, *The Advocate*, and in our Annual Report;
- receive a token of our appreciation and,
- be invited to a special recognition event in 2022.

**Become a *Regular Member*:** Regular annual memberships help fund our ongoing operating costs and public education programs, and enable us to offer small grants and support to small preservation projects. Your membership actively promotes community stewardship of our heritage.

\_\_\_\_ \$35 Individual Membership

\_\_\_\_ \$50 Household Membership

\_\_\_\_ \$75 Business Membership

\_\_\_\_ \$10 High School/College Student Membership

**All Memberships created in 2021 will be honored through December 2022!!**

### Be a Part of Cazenovia's *Future History* !

Your membership can be made securely on our website with a credit or debit card or through PayPal. Alternatively, you may mail your check with the following information (please print) to **Cazenovia Heritage, P.O. Box 103, Cazenovia NY 13035**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

To learn more about us, visit [www.cazheritage.org](http://www.cazheritage.org)

***Protecting Our Past, Preserving Our Future***